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FROM: BONN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1515, JANUARY 16, 8 PM

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SENT DEPARTMENT 1515; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 338, PARIS 475, BERLIN 467, MOSCOW 182.

PARIS PASS USRO

REFERENCE: DEPTTEL 1509.

DESPITE CONCLUDING PORTION BRITISH AIDE MEMOIRE JANUARY 13 WHICH INDICATES STRONG POSITION ON WESTERN DETERMINATION PRESERVE RIGHTS IN BERLIN, EARLIER PORTIONS AIDE MEMOIRE SEEM CONTAIN OVERTONES BRITISH MEMORANDUM NOVEMBER 19. WE DOUBT OUR PURPOSES WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY INDICATING MIKOYAN AT THIS JUNCTURE "ADVISABILITY FINDING SOME WAY ENABLE BOTH US AND THEM GET OFF BERLIN HOOK EVEN TEMPORARILY".

MIKOYAN ALMOST CERTAIN INTERPRET SUCH STATEMENT AS RETREAT FROM OUR NOTE DECEMBER 31 AND SOVIETS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TAKE MORE RIGID POSITION ON BERLIN ISSUE.

AS INDICATED IN EMBTEL 1486 WE FEEL ESSENTIAL AT LEAST FOR PRESENT THAT WE CONTINUE INSIST OUR POSITION BERLIN NOT NEGOTIABLE AND WE NOT PREPARED ACCEPT ANY COMPROMISE THAT INFRINGES ON OUR RIGHTS THERE.

MOREOVER, WE QUESTION PRACTICABILITY ANY INTERIM SOLUTIONS BERLIN QUESTION. WHAT IS VALUE OF SOVIET COMMITMENT TO INSURE THAT GDR WILL CARRY OUT RESPONSIBILITIES ABANDONED BY SOVIETS? IF GDR RENEGES ON RESPONSIBILITIES WHAT RECOURSE WOULD WE HAVE? ALTHOUGH IT FAINTLY POSSIBLE OUR GARRISONS COULD REMAIN FOR AWHILE IN BERLIN ON SUFFERANCE GDR, WE CONVINCED WE COULD NOT MAINTAIN OUR POSITION THERE FOR VERY LONG ON SUCH BASIS.

PERMANENT/23

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